THE

CONFESSION

OF

Edward Fitz-harys,

ESQUIRE,

Written with his Own Hand,

And delivered to

Doctor Hawkins

MINISTER

OF THE

TOWER,

The Frſt of *July*, 1681.

Being the Day of His

EXECUTION.

Together with his Laſt Speech.

LONDON,
Printed for *S. Carr.* 1681.

The Confession of Edward Fitz-Harys *Esq.*

I *Edward Fitz-Harys*, having been Indicted of High Treason, for endeavouring to dethrone the KING, was thereupon found Guilty, and Sentence of Death passed upon me. I the aforesaid *Edward Fitz-Harys* do voluntarily and freely, without any hopes to save my Life, but as a Dying Man, and to discharge my Conscience towards God, and for the better satisfaction of the World, make this Declaration following, in the presence of God, and unto Doctor *Francis Hawkins*, Chaplain of the *Tower* of *London*.

I do profess and declare my Religion in the general to be that which hath been truly and anciently delivered in the first Four General Councils; and in particular, my Belief is that true Faith of a Christian briefly contained in those Three Creeds commonly called *The Apostles Creed*, *St. Athanasius's*, and *The Nicene Creeds*: And I die a Member, and in the Communion of *Christ's* Holy Catholick Church, hoping for Mercy through the alone Merits of the Passion of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*.

I do also confess and declare, as to the Crimes which I die for, I was no further concerned in the Libel, than as employed to give the King notice of what Libels or other Accusations there were against him; and to this Intent and no other I endeavoured to get this Libel, which at length I did, from Mr. *Everard*, all written under his own Hand, and carried it to Mrs. *Wall*, by whose means I conveyed all Matters of this or the like nature to the King. I told her I had a Business of great consequence to acquaint the King with: but she answered me, That my Lord *Sunderland* being out, there would be no Money had for Secret Service, and advised me to go to the Lord *Clarendon* or *Hyde*: But before I could do this, I was taken. As for that part of the Libel which I left with *Everard*, as a Pledge to assure him I would not betray him, I received it of the Lord *Howard*: And the Money I received from the King, was for bringing a Libel called *The King Unvail'd*, and the *Lady Portsmouths Articles*. I call God to Witness, I never had a Farthing Charity from the King.

I do further confess and declare, That the Lord *Howard* told me of a Design to seize upon the King's Person, and to carry him into the City, and there detain him till he had condescended to their Desires. *Hayns* and my self were privy to this Design, and had several Meetings with the Lord *Howard*; and as an Encouragement, the Lord *Howard* assured us of breaking the Settlement of *Ireland*, taking of the Additional Revenue of the Bishops, Forty nine Men, and Grantees, whose Estates were to be shar'd amongst the Party.

I do confeſs and declare, That while I was in *Newgate*, the Sheriffs, *Bethel* and *Corniſh*, came to me, with a Token from the Lord *Howard*, which I knew to be true, and brought Heads with them from *Everard*, wherein he accuſed me of being a Court-Emiſſary, or *Yorkiſt*, put on by the King to put the Libel into Proteſtants Houſes, to trepan them. But I declare upon my death I had no ſuch intent, nor do I know any ſuch thing: The Sheriffs likewiſe told me I was to be tryed within three or four Days, that the People would proſecute me, and the Parliament would Impeach me, and that nothing would ſave my life but diſcovering the Popiſh Plot; and then the Sheriffs aforeſaid gave me great Encouragement from my Lord *Howard*, that if I would declare that I believed ſo much of the Plot as amounted to the introducing the R. C. or if I could find out any that could Criminate the Queen, R. H. or make ſo much as a plauſible Story to confirm the Plot, that the Parliament would reſtore me to my Fathers Eſtate, with the Profits thereof ſince His Majeſties Reſtauration. I finding my ſelf in the condition I was, in *Newgate*, Fettered, Moneyleſs and Friendleſs, my Wife ready to Lye-in without any ſubſiſtence, my Children in a miſerable condition, and muſt needs be in a worſe by my death, and I could ſee no other Refuge for life but complying with them, ſo, not with ambitious intent, but to ſave my life, I did comply: The Sheriffs brought Inſtructions which they ſaid came from the Lords and Commons, who met that day in order to Addreſs to the King in my behalf, if I ſhould confirm the Inſtructions; and they made uſe of the Lord *Shaftsbury*'s Name, and others, what Advantage I might have thereby. At the firſt I made a formal Story concerning the Plot, which was not prejudicial to any body, but moſt relating to general Heads known publickly; upon which Mr. *Corniſh* told me, Theſe were things cryed about the Streets two Years ago: I replyed, I could ſay no more: Mr. Sheriff ſaid, he was ſorry for me with all his heart, but thought I could ſay more if I would, and preſſed me hard to ſpeak to ſeveral Heads, unto which unleſs I ſpoke, he ſaid, there was no hopes of life; the Heads I was to ſpeak to is what the Examination taken by Sir *Robert Clayton* and Sir *George Treby* contains, and a great deal more that I did not ſay then, relating to the Queen, R. H. Earl of *Danby*, declaring *French* Penſioners, Lords, *Hallifax*, *Hyde*, *Clarendon*, *Feverſham*, *Seymer*, and others; the burning the Fleet, Forts and Governments in Popiſh hands, Meal-Tub-Plot, Prentices Plot, the Contrivance of the Libel on the Lady *Portſmouth*, being a *French* Deſign to deſtroy Proteſtants: Theſe and many other Heads were brought me by the Sheriffs.

I do

I do farther confeſs and declare, That Sir *Robert Clayton* and Sir *George Treby* coming to me to examine me, Sir *Robert Clayton* asked me what I could ſay concerning *Godfrey*'s Murder? I anſwered, *Something*. He replied, It may be I was in a confuſion; recollect your ſelf. And what I ſaid concerning Father *Patrick*, was forced out of me; and what I ſaid concerning him is not true. Sir *George Treby* was with me three hours, or thereabouts, and preſſed to ſay concerning *Godfrey*'s Death: And ſaid, Unleſs I could ſpeak to that Murder, I could ſay nothing; Whereupon, I ſaid ſomething I had from others. He asked me if I could ſay no more? I replied, *Is not this enough to ſave my Life? Am I not Rogue enough?* The Recorder hereupon ſwore Gods wounds, What were you ever but a Rogue? Then the Recorder entred upon the Heads of the Examination; which being done, He told me, All this would not ſave my Life, unleſs I would ſpeak to the *Libel*, which was a Court-trick; And it was not for nothing that I had been ſo often ſeen at the Lady *Portſmouth*'s. The Lord *Shaftsbury* ſaid, You know more of theſe matters than any man. Sir *George* would have me ſpeak to the Conſult; that the *Duke* was at it, the Lords, *Belaſis*, *Arundel* and *Powis* were at it; You have ſeen them go to it at St. *James*'s; without doubt they were there; Do you but ſay it, we have thoſe that will ſwear it.

I do further declare and confeſs, That what I ſaid againſt the Queen and the Duke, I was put upon, in the matter of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*'s Murder; And do further declare, That what I ſwore againſt the Earl of *Danby*; the threatning words that were uttered I did (to the beſt of my remembrance) hear, but whom they concern'd I could not well know, by what my Lord himſelf ſaid. And what *de Puis* told me concerning my Lord of *Danby*, I do believe was ſpoken out of ill will; And what I ſaid againſt him, was to ſtave off my Tryal til a Parliament; and they were the more deſirous to accuſe the Lord *Danby* of *Godfrey*'s Murder, becauſe the Crime of Murder is not incerted in his Pardon. I am ſorry for what I ſaid againſt the Queen, his Royal Highneſs, and the Earl of *Danby*; I deſire God to forgive me the wrong I did them, and do heartily beg their Pardon.

I do further declare and proteſt, That this Confeſſion and Declaration of mine I own ſincerely, as a dying man, and not to ſave my Life; And I call God and all his Angels to witneſs the Truth of it; And I renounce Mercy at the Hands of God Almighty, if this be not true.

And I do further declare and proteſt, as a dying man, unto *James Walmeſly*, *Edward Pattel* and *Mary Walmeſly*, That I have made this Confeſſion and Declaration unto Doctor *Hawkins*, freely, and of my own voluntary accord, without any manner of promiſe made, or hopes given me by him from the King of ſaving my Life by this Confeſſion; I having given him to underſtand beforehand they were matters of Conſequence, and ſuch as chiefly concern'd the good of the King and Kingdom.

I give the Doctor my hearty Thanks for all his Prayers, Counſel and Charitable Offices he hath done me, and I pray God to bleſs him for ever for it. I forgive all the World, and deſire all the World to forgive me; And the Lord have mercy on my Soul.

EDWARD FITZ-HARYS.

This Proteſtation was made by Mr. Fitz-Harys, July 1. *between the hours of* 7 *and* 8 *in the morning, in the preſence and hearing of us whoſe Names are hereunder-written.*

James Walmeſly.
Edward Pattel.
Mary Walmeſly.

I Do hereby declare, That Mr. *Fitz-Harys*, before he began to write any part of this Narrative, was, more than once, aſſured by me that there was no hope of his Life, whatever he ſhould ſay; nor of his Salvation, if he ſhould ſay any thing that he knew to be falſe: of which he being throughly ſenſible, and perfectly convinced, proceeded to write the Narrative aforeſaid. And I continuing to admoniſh him upon every point that was material, not to ſay any thing but what was exactly true, he took occaſion, at ſeveral periods of his Narrative, to kneel down, and ſolemnly to Proteſt the Truth of every word therein contained. And this I do again declare upon the Faith of a Chriſtian, and the word of a Miniſter of the Goſpel.

Francis Hawkins.

Mr. *Fitz-Harys*'s Speech at his Execution, at TYBURN, *July* 1. 1681.

GOod People, This Infamous kind of Death is much more irksom to me, than Death it self: Such a Judgment as this my Sins against God may justly bring upon me, and I do most humbly submit unto it. But as to the Crimes which I now die for, I take God to witness, I was no further concerned in the Libel, than to discover to the King what Practises of that kind were against him, being employed for that end, though those that employed me refused to do me Justice at my Tryal. And I call God to Witness, I never had a Farthing of Money of the King in my life, but on the Account of the like Service. And as to the Witnesses that have Sworn against me, I do here solemnly declare, now at my Death, that I have not seen the French Ambassador since the beginning of the breaking out of the Plot, neither have I had any acquaintance with him. And as to his Confessor, I never spoke with him in my life; neither have I had any dealing, either directly or indirectly, in my life with them, though Sir William Waller and the rest Swore most falsly to the contrary. And how like it is that the French Ambassador would give three thousand Crowns for writing that Libel, I leave the World to judge. What I might further declare, I have left with Doctor Hawkins. I forgive all the World, and do hope that God will forgive me. I beg the Prayers of all good People for a happy Passage into the other World.

Edw. Fitz-Harys.